Budget Priorities for the 2021-22 School Year: Survey Results

June 2021
Survey Background and Overview

- The survey opened on April 8, 2021 and closed on April 19, 2021.
- It was available in nine languages in addition to English: Albahanian, Arabic, Chinese, French, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- The survey asked respondents for feedback on what supports should be prioritized in the budget for the 2021-22 school year.
- Respondents ranked, from most to least important, lists of supports for student learning recovery, approaches to school building maintenance, and supports for helping students with social-emotional needs.
Who responded to the survey?
Of the 12,266 survey responses....

- About two thirds (65%) were from parents/guardians of SDP students, and about a quarter (25%) were from school-based SDP staff.
- The rest of the respondents were Central Office staff (3%), Other (3%), or SDP students (2%).

Note: These were self-reported categories.
Of the 12,266 survey responses....

Over a third (36%) were white, 30% were Black/African American, 12% were Hispanic/Latinx, 8% were Asian, 5% were Other, and 3% were Multi-racial.

Note: These were self-reported categories.
Of the 12,266 survey responses....

About a quarter of respondents reported earning $25,000-49,999, and another quarter said they make $50,000-99,999.

Note: These were self-reported categories.
What were the top-ranked supports for student learning?
Additional supports for Special Education students and Discretionary funding for schools received the most #1 rankings.
Additional supports for Special Education students received the the most 1-3 rankings

Percentage of 1-3 rankings for each student learning support (N=35,350)

- Additional supports for Special Education Students: 17.9%
- An additional Math and Literacy Teacher Leader in every school: 14.6%
- Additional supports for English Language Learners: 13.7%
- After-school programs: 13.4%
- Discretionary funding for schools (schools can decide how they would like to use the funds): 12.3%
- Tutoring programs: 11.2%
- Training and development opportunities for teachers: 7.0%
- Before-school programs: 4.9%
- Summer learning programs: 4.9%
What were the top-ranked approaches for building maintenance?
Addressing environmental hazards in buildings received the most #1 rankings

Percentage of number 1 rankings for building maintenance efforts (N=11,880)
Addressing environmental hazards in buildings received the most 1-3 rankings

Percentage of 1-3 rankings for building maintenance efforts (N=34,779)

- Addressing environmental hazards in buildings: 26.43%
- Adding air conditioning to existing buildings: 22.10%
- Improving ventilation in buildings: 21.65%
- Building brand new schools to replace current buildings: 9.31%
- Adding and updating playgrounds: 8.74%
- Modernizing classrooms and new classroom furniture: 8.35%
- Lighting and painting updates: 3.42%
What were the top-ranked supports for student social-emotional needs?
Behavioral health/mental health services received the most #1 rankings

Percentage of number 1 rankings for student social-emotional supports (N=11,831)
Behavioral health/mental health services received the most 1-3 rankings

Percentage of 1-3 rankings for student social-emotional supports (N=34,881)
There were two open ended questions and 4,684 respondents left feedback to one or both questions

- Click [here](#) for responses to the first open-ended question: “Are there other priorities, not listed above, that SDP should consider when finalizing the budget?”
- Click [here](#) for responses to the second open-ended question: “What additional information about the budget process would you like to see shared with the public?”
Conclusions

The top three **student learning supports** ranked as most important:

- Additional supports for Special Education Students
- Discretionary funding for schools (schools can decide how they would like to use the funds)
- An additional Math and Literacy Teacher Leader in every school

The top three **building maintenance issues** ranked as most important:

- Addressing environmental hazards
- Installing air conditioning in buildings
- Improving ventilation in buildings

The top three **student social-emotional needs** ranked as most important:

- Behavioral/mental health services
- Before and after school enrichment opportunities
- Additional athletic opportunities